The Brethren Evangelist.

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My Light and my Salvation.

God is my strong salvation;
What foe have I to fear?
In darkness and temptation,
My light, my help is near.
Though hosts encamp around me,
Firm in the fight I stand;
What terror can confound me,
With God at my right hand!

Place on the Lord reliance;
My soul with courage wait,
His truth be thine affiance,
When faint and desolate.
His might thine heart shall strengthen,
His love thy joy increase;
Mercy thy day shall lengthen;
The Lord will give thee peace!

James Montgomery.

Oakville, Ind.

Last Thursday evening brother J. H. Swihart came from Sulphur Springs, where he had been holding a series of meetings. The attendance and interest was good. The waters were troubled and two came out and united with the church. We think there is good prospects for the Brethren to organize a class there.

Brother Teeter and Bro. J. H. Swihart came here on Thursday, that being the regular time for our prayer and social meeting. Brother Teeter took charge of the meeting. The members here are in earnest and willing to take up their cross and do all within their power to advance the cause of Christ. But Christ says, Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. That conveys the idea to us that we are not to boast of our spiritual strength. We should feel at all times that we are God's children and that we are fully depending on him for all we are and have. The evidence that we have of it here is, they are willing to fulfill all of the commandments. We have brotherly love one for another. So much so that members of other churches say they feel more at home in our meetings, than they do in their own meetings. We hope that the little vine that has been planted in Oakville may grow, and grow, and grow till it will spread over the country and bring forth much fruit fit for the Master's use.

On Friday evening after preaching by Bro. J. H. Swihart, one came out and united with the Brethren. He had been baptized in the Conservative church. We took him in full membership. On Saturday while Bro. J. H. Swihart and I were out in the country visiting some of the members and friends, Bro. Isaac Holsinger came in search of us. He said we were needed at Oakville. Not knowing what was the trouble there, we were almost afraid to say anything. But presently we asked what was the trouble there. Then he said that there was a young man that wanted to unite with the church and wanted to be baptized yet this evening. He came with fear and trembling. We received him in full membership that evening and bid him God speed. On Lord's day evening one young man came out. Brother Swihart took the north-bound train enroute for Bunker Hill where he will engage in a meeting. He has our best wishes wherever he may go.

PETER OXLEY.

Jan. 25th, 1887.

Sherwood, Ohio.

I read in the EVANGELIST the experience of so many brethren and sisters. It is very interesting to me to hear how the good work is going on in different places. So I thought I would give some of our experience. As I do not write very often for the press, I will go back in the past to begin. On the second Sunday of March, 1886, we organized a Sabbath school. The M. E. brethren wrapped themselves up in a sectarian coat and said that no one should teach or have any thing to do with the school unless they were identified with the M. E. church. Then the U. B. brethren took a brand from the same heap and built a fire in that class, so that left the majority of us out in the cold. The German Reformed church opened their door to us and we went in and our labors have been crowned with success. The writer was chosen superintendent. On the 13th day of June, we observed Children's Day, when the house was crowded to the utmost. The attendance has been good, the largest attendance on one Sabbath being 137; the smallest 43.

On the 6th of August, we had a S. S. concert in which all enjoyed themselves very much. Previous to this Bro. Mallott came here and held a revival meeting, in which eight souls were added to the church. He made many friends while he was here. They often ask me when he is coming back again and I cannot tell them. He said he would try and come as soon as he could. Where are you Bro. Mallott? Come and give us another "lift." Well, time passed on and we talked of having a Christmas tree and we concluded so to do.

In the latter part of November I went to Auburn, Ind., and held some meetings in vicinity of Bro. A. J. Carmers. Had some good meetings, though not largely attended. Came home, and on the evening of the 16th of December, one of our neighbors called on us and we were having a pleasant visit, when all of a sudden our door was opened and 38 persons came in loaded with such things as we needed. Provisions, Groceries and Dry Goods, among which was a suit of clothes.

We have resolved to live nearer the cross the coming year than we ever have. "To walk worthy of the vocation wherein we are called."

ABRAHAM SHOE.

Philadelphia News.

On the 8th, inst., J. D. McFaden came to the city of brotherly love, and on the 9th, he commenced a series of meetings at our Mission Chapel at Fourth and York st. This Mission has always been carried on under the auspices of the progressive element of the Philadelphia church, but we had not declared our independence from the German Baptist church until last Monday evening, Jan. 24th. On that date we organized ourselves into a Brethren church with twenty-six members and ten converts to baptize. This swells the number to thirty-six to start with, and some more of the German Baptists are on the fence. May the Lord speedily help them off.

We respectfully asked the German Baptists for the use of their church and pool to baptize our converts, and this was just as respectfully refused us. Hence we are thrown upon the tender mercies of the church of God for the use of their pool. May God be praised for their generosity. We expect to baptize tomorrow evening, Jan. 27th. Our meetings will continue over Sunday, the 30th, inst., and then close for the present. Brethren everywhere, pray for our success.

We will prepare a more minute account of the affairs of the Phila., meeting as it was and now is, in the near future, and shall give the readers of the EVANGELIST the benefit of it.

McFaden is a power in the work of the Lord.

JACOB C. CASSEL.

Phila., Jan., 26th, 1887.

Falls City Items.

The National Executive Committee of the Brethren Church meets in the Falls City church, February 10th. All the members are expected to be present except Elder Daniel Crofford, who has given notice that he could not be present unless it would be held in Johnstown, Pa. The correspondence so far received, favors a convention to be held next spring, either in Ohio or Indiana.

Time for series of meetings to begin, at the Silver Creek meeting house was set for Saturday evening, February 29th. Elder John Nicholson is expected to be with us during the meeting.

The writer had the pleasure of meeting a few brethren and sisters across the border, in Kansas, last Sunday. Bro. Elias Meyers and wife, from Falls City, conducted him to an appointment within the territory of the Pony Creek church, at a school house, five miles south of Falls City. The minister of the Pony Creek church did not materialize, and the writer tried to preach to a small but interested congregation. This was going into an organized territory of an elder to preach without his permission, which was considered an offence under the old creed, but by which we are no longer judged.

In the afternoon I stopped with Mr. Loucks whose wife is a sister in the church, a daughter of Michael Kulp, of Columbiana Co., Ohio, and through her, old and pleasant associations of that place were revived.

Sister Savilla Maust of this place was summoned to the bedside of her dying father in Illinois.

E. L. Y.

To Those Who Write.

I frequently receive letters from individuals in organized congregations of the church, soliciting me to "come and attend to some church business for the promotion of the cause." The general tone of some of those letters seem to say "you were appointed at the Dayton Convention to attend to such business, and we need something done here. We are not in a good working condition here. I will not write much, but will tell you many things when you come."

To such brethren I would say, if you are not regularly organized, not under the oversight of an ordained elder, of course, duty says go, if you can; if not, see that somebody else goes and attends to the business. But if you have an organized church where you live, having a membership and an elder to oversee the church, you need not write to me any more about transacting church business. To say the least and as emphatic as I know how, *it is not my business.* The Convention did not appoint me to go into organized churches to organize. I have no right whatever to go into an organized congregation to ordain elders or appoint any other officers without the request or at least consent of the congregation where the work is to be done, including its Elder. If, however a church has no elder, the church (the home congregation) has a right to call any elder it wishes to transact its business. We are under a congregational form of church government, and for an elder to go into another congregation where there is an elder in charge and transact important church business without his consent is, to say the least, the height of assumption, and is destined in its very nature to cause disturbance and uncalled for ill-will. Every church is or ought to be under the watch care of some elder, and if a church wishes important business transacted, it is its place to consult its own elder first, and if they want foreign help let them call for it, but do it in the name, by the authority or by request of the church. Brethren, if you want my aid in important matters, call me by authority or request of the church where you live.

J. H. SWIHART.

Galesburg, Kans.

Jan. 24.—We propose giving a few items regarding this part of Kansas. The EVANGELIST is received and read with interest. It has been exceedingly dry here this winter. Water for stock is an item. Farmers are compelled to haul water long distances for stock, although many are securing good wells by using powder. Farmers are plowing. We have an excellent country and fertile soil, where crops of all kinds attains perfect maturity. Those desiring cheap homes and a change of location to a good country would do well to come. Those desiring information concerning southern Kansas, will be cheerfully favored by enclosing postage for answer.

There is a small band of your denomination at this place, presided over by Rev. A. J. Hixon, of Montana, Kansas, who holds regular services every month in a school house, as they have no church in which to hold meetings.

A. J. HODGDEN.

Galesburg, Kansas.

Sidney, Ind.

Jan. 25.—We are a little band of 38, and I trust a praying band. It seems we have no one in the field who feels able to hold fort at Sidney. We are just standing helpless. We have no minister, but we trust we will soon be able to procure one to give us instructions and help us to increase our little number and persuade men to enlist under the blood-stained banner of Christ. We seek an interest in the prayers of all praying people and may we always be found at our post and take the Bible and that alone as our guide; and may it be as the Psalmist David said: A lamp to our feet and a light to our path way.

C. H. SELLERS.

Nashville, Mich.

We have seven members here, and would like to have a minister to come to this place. We have a good country, cheap farms for sale. Brethren come and see our place. I am getting old and not able to do much for the cause.

C. A. PRICE.

Bellfontaine, Ohio.

June 25.—Our meetings closed here last night with a full house and good interest. We start home this morning. The immediate result of our labors were tw additions to the church by baptism. Others talk of being baptized when warm weather comes. May God help them so to do is our prayer.

A. M. RIDENOUR.

It is a long road, paved with hope, between what you expect and what you get.

The first act of a man when profoundly perplexed is some unconscious trifle.

A man's own good breeding is the best security against other peoples' manners.

Friends are like stones in the wall; the first one breaks off carries away the rest.

There is no subject on which so much arrant nonsense has been written as money.

As a rough shell enclose a pearl, so does mean dress often cover the great and noble.

A good book will bear perpetual devouring and can never be gnawed quite to the bone.

It would be difficult to overstate the unconscious influence of a child in any family.

The human heart has a strange knack of making its past perils augment its present peace.

The best defence against a secret enemy is to make him believe you are aware of his snares.